

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the Claims 1 and 3 and added new Claims 8 and 9. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter (see Fig. 1 and the associated description). Accordingly, Applicant will provide the Examiner with remarks concerning the amended claims and the art relied upon by the Examiner.

The Examiner has previously relied upon Japanese Patent Publication 10-278,124 and Williams, et al. as anticipating the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that in Applicant's invention as presently claimed, the web portion which is corrugated is only the portion provided between the outermost of the two circumferential ribs and the tooth portion. Applicant respectfully submits that this construction is not obvious from a mere combination of Japanese Patent Publication 10-278,124 and Williams, et al. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that a combination of Williams, et al. which discloses that the entire web between the shaft support and the tooth portion is corrugated and Japanese Patent Publication 10-278,124 does not make it obvious which part of a plastic gear that includes circumferential ribs and diametric ribs would be corrugated.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that in Applicant's invention, the functions of the radially extending ribs and the corrugated web are separated.

As a result of this separation and function, the strength of the gear can be increased as much as possible without influencing the accuracy of the teeth. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's invention is not a mere combination of a plastic gear having reinforced ribs in the diametric and circumferential directions and a plastic gear in which the area between the ribs and the hub are formed with corrugated webs. In other words, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's invention is a plastic gear in which the areas in which only a corrugated web is formed and no diametrical ribs are formed are provided and the areas in which only the radial and circumferential ribs are formed without a corrugated web exist.


In addition to the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this particular limitation to Claims 8 and 9 are not shown in any of the arts cited by the Examiner.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 would not be obvious over Japanese Patent Publication 10-278,124 in view of Williams, et al.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.


KODA & ANDROLIA

By: 
William L. Androlia
Reg. No. 27,177

2029 Century Park East
Suite 1430
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Tel: (310) 277-1391
Fax: (310) 277-4118

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 William L. Androlia

Name

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